

State Bicycle Map Update First Steering Committee Meeting

The first Steering Committee Meeting for the State Regional Bicycle Map updates was held at the NHDOT on October 27, 2006.

Members present:

Tom Jameson – NHDOT Rail & Transit, Bicycle & Pedestrian Section
Jerry Moore – NHDOT Rail & Transit, Bicycle & Pedestrian Section
Scott Bogle – Rockingham Planning Commission
Mike Izard – Lakes Region Planning Commission
Craig Tufts – Central NH Regional Planning Commission
Nicolas Bosonetto – Southwest Regional Planning Commission
Matthew Caron – Southern NH Planning Commission
Mary Deppe – North Country Council
Matt Waitkins – Nashua Regional Planning Commission
Jennifer Codispoti – DRED, Trails Bureau
Linda Harvey – Granite State Wheelmen
Jim Marshall – NHDOT Highway Design
David Bernier – NHDOT Bureau of Traffic

Members not present:

Nathan Miller - Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee RPC
Dale Abbott - Strafford RPC
Dave Topham - Bike-Walk Alliance of NH
Seacoast Area Bicycle Routes (SABR)
DRED – Travel & Tourism

After introductions, the meeting began with a Power Point Presentation by Tom Jameson titled – “Bicycle Map Update...A New Vision!”

In his discussion it was noted that the last update of our Regional Bicycle Maps was in 2002 and the present inventory of those printed maps has been exhausted. There were 20,000 of each of the (7) Regions printed. Before printing more maps, it was determined that an update of the “Preferred State Bicycle Routes” was necessary along with the inclusion of additional map layers that would benefit bicyclist within our State. These layers would include alternatives such as Rail, Transit (Bus), Rail Trails, and Rideshare. Due to upgrades in our mapping technology things like elevations, profiles and 3d mapping were also discussed and shown. Some or all of these improvements are expected to be included on the new paper maps along with our electronic version.

A copy of the presentation is available by contacting Jerry Moore, NHDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Section at: jmoore2@dot.state.nh.us.

It was indicated that the maps will be developed by the Steering committee and things will be done by consensus.

The timeline for the updates was presented by Jerry Moore, and key dates were noted. It was noted that at the time of this committee meeting, the start date for the RPC review of the existing Bicycle Routes had all ready started. A committee member asked if the deadline for completion of this phase could be moved out a few weeks to make up for the lost time. Tom agreed but asked that the RPCs submit data as soon as possible so that the changes can be done during this time. It would be easier to get small sections of data each week rather than all of it at the end. The completion date for this portion was moved out from Friday, November 17th, to December 8th to adjust for the necessary review time.

As a result of the presentation the following questions were addressed:

1. DRED: We have an extensive database of the existing Rail Trails, but no maps! Would there be a sharing of information, so our database would include maps?

We hope the inclusion of additional layers in our maps like the Rail Trails would be a “two way street” link to other agencies/departments!

2. Windham Rail Trail, do we have up to date data?

Current information shows that the Windham Rail Trail is complete and can be accessed on their web site: www.windhamrailtrail.org.

3. We see more Bicycles allowed on Trains now, how extensive is this in New Hampshire?

Currently, bicycles are allowed on Trains at the discretion of the conductor because of platform limitations at the stations.

4. Maps show roads that do not exist! Are the road layers up to date?

Road layer data is as good as the data that has been received. Not all areas have sent updates, revisions to the DOT.

5. How will the public be kept up to date on the progress of the Bicycle revisions?

The DOT will host the revision process on their web site: www.nhbikeped.com. A separate page linked to this site will be dedicated to the project.

6. Can we include elevation data along with the shaded relief?

We can add reference elevations, but limit them to prevent too much clutter.

7. Can we include layers into adjoining states?

We can add data to show transitions into other states, and Canada.

8. We need to come up with an acceptable definition of “Preferred Routes”.
NHDOT will be looking into the meaning of preferred routes

9. Can we put the maps on waterproof/tare proof paper like “Tyvek”?

If we can find an economical product!

10. Can we include Lat/Long data?

Yes this is possible but would need to be a committee decision.

11. Will the RPC’s be able to help the DOT in the organization of the (4) Town Meetings?

Yes RPC’s can help to organize these meetings in their regions.

12. How can we get more people around the State involved in the (4) Town Meetings?

One idea was to send out a survey to area bicyclists for their input. The State website could publish a survey or ask for electronic input as well.

At the meeting the existing Regional Bicycle Maps were discussed and a set was given to each RPC in attendance for their review and correction. A copy will be mailed for those RPC’s not in attendance. The Planning commissions will review these existing maps and mark them up with any revisions that they would like to see. These revisions will then be evaluated by the Steering Committee. The review process needs to be completed by December 8th. RPC’s are encouraged to send in data on a weekly basis to give DOT time to create a Draft Route Layer.

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, November 17th, with a follow up meeting on December 15th after the completion of the RPC evaluation of the “Preferred Bicycle Routes”.

The meeting adjourned around 11:00am.

Submitted by: Jerry Moore